

April 5, 1973

(Start of Belt #9)

whichever the lesser.

SENATOR ANDERSON: It's a ...

SENATOR WHITNEY: Or whichever the greater?

SENATOR ANDERSON: Whichever is greater, so 1/10th of a mill. \$25,000,000 assessed valuation would raise \$2500.00, so if the assessed valuation is less than \$25,000,000 which would apply to our smallest counties, then the \$2500.00 would apply, but above \$25,000,000 assessed valuation, then, 1/10th of a mill..period.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Would this mean that...oh, I see, whichever the greater so they could not pay more than \$2500.00. Now, what if the County Commissioners decided not to discontinue but to permit the County Superintendent to continue as he or she is now at the present salary, would this then be permitted?

SENATOR ANDERSON: Yes, very definitely. This is one of the key features of the bill, itself, and one of the things that I insisted upon when the bill was being drawn up was that we make this a permissive situation because we have a number of counties where there is still a large number of Class I school districts, and, in this case, it makes sense and I am sure that the County Board could justify continuing the County Superintendent's office in its present situation. So, they would be permitted to, if they do not take action to discontinue, then the situation continues just as it is now. They would continue to elect. They would continue to provide whatever salary they set. The conditions for qualification by the County Superintendent would be the same and so on. So, there would be nothing changed at all.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Now, I would like to ask another question. Let's assume the County Commissioners wanted to get rid of a certain County Superintendent, so they did so. Now, then, would they have to continue to permit the Educational Service Unit to take over from then on, or could they, once they got rid of this particular person, and then let the Educational Service Unit handle it for a short time. Then, could they go back to the present system?

SENATOR ANDERSON: The bill is designed in such a way that.. well, one reality that you have here, of course, is that you are dealing with a four year block of time in terms of the elec...term of the elected office of the County Superintendent. Quite likely, the county would attempt to get a contract for a four year period of time to cover this time. There is nothing in the bill to prevent a county which in real valuation determines that they wanted an elected County Superintendent go back to this, but I think you would have to deal with a four year block of time.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Another question, what if they discovered the Educational Service Unit did not do the right kind of a job and they'd like to go back to the old system because they discovered that the old system was better than the new. Then, is there a provision here that they could go back immediately or do they have to wait the four year term is up?

SENATOR ANDERSON: There are legal provisions whereby they could go back to the original system because the county... the County Board has the authority to name, in the absence of the County Superintendent, they have the authority to name a County Superintendent. I think this authority could be invoked in that particular case, if they did back themselves into a problem.

SENATOR WHITNEY: OK. Thank you.